

House Bill 1354

By: Representative Rice of the 51st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and
2 businesses, so as to provide that an electronic signature is permitted for certain documents
3 that require the signature of architects, engineers, and land surveyors; to provide for
4 definitions; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,
8 is amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 43-4-16, relating to requirements of
9 an architect seal, as follows:

10 "(b)(1) As used in this Code section, 'electronic signature' means an electronic sound,
11 symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a document and executed or
12 adopted by a person with the intent to sign the document.

13 (2) Plans, specifications, drawings, reports, or other architectural documents issued for
14 the purpose of obtaining a building permit or for other requirements set forth by law shall
15 be sealed by the architect and across the face of the seal shall be affixed the signature or
16 electronic signature of the owner of the seal. The location of the seal on such documents,
17 the identification of the pages which must be sealed, and the form of any title blocks may
18 be established by the board in its rules and regulations."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 43-15-24, relating
21 to the construction of structures jeopardizing health, safety, or welfare and the record of
22 building permits, as follows:

23 "(c)(1) As used in this Code section, 'electronic signature' means an electronic sound,
24 symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a document and executed or
25 adopted by a person with the intent to sign the document.

(2) Any county, municipality, or other governing body in this state that issues building permits is required to maintain a permanent record of the permit application and issuance thereon, which record shall indicate the name of the professional engineer or architect, if any, that has sealed the plans, specifications, plats, or reports pursuant to which said building permit is issued, said record to include details on the size, type of building or structure, use for said building or structure, and estimated cost of construction. If such record requires the signature and seal of an architect, engineer, or land surveyor, an electronic signature shall satisfy the signature requirement."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.